

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0526

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: REACTION TO SPINOLA SEPT 10 SPEECH

REF: LISBON 3907

SUMMARY: MOST MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD), HAVE FAILED TO REACT PUBLICLY TO SPINOLA SPEECH. MARIO SOARES (SOCIALIST) HAS TOLD EMBOFFS PRIVATELY THAT SOCIALISTS HAPPY AT SPINOLA ACCEPTANCE OF MODERATE SOCIALISM. WEEKLY EXPRESSO COMMENTS THAT JUDGING BY POLITICAL CONTENT OF SPEECH PRESIDENT SPINOLA APPEARS TO BE LINING UP WITH CENTER-LEFT (PPD). THIS SUDDEN SEEMING STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CENTER-LEFT (I.E., NON-TOTALITARIAN SOCIALISTS) HAS CAUGHT OTHER SECTORS BY SURPRISE ACCORDING TO EXPRESSO. END SUMMARY.

1. SO FAR ONLY TWO POLITICAL PARTIES, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) AND CENTRIST PPD HAVE COMMENTED ON MAJOR SPEECH BY PRESIDENT SPINOLA OF SEPT 10. OTHER PARTIES HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN SILENT PUBLICLY.

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2. PPD COMMUNIQUE LAUDED SPEECH AS "SIGNIFICANT" AND AGREED WITH SPINOLA THAT AUTHENTIC DECOLONIZATION COINCIDES WITH DEMOCRACY. PARTY ALSO PICKED UP SPINOLA THEME THAT ONE-PARTY STATES NOT COMPATIBLE WITH DEMOCRACY, AND USED OCCASION TO PUT IN A PLUG FOR ITS BRAND OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY "SOCIALISM WITHIN LIBERTY". PPD RECOMMENDED ALL PORTUGUESE READ PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND REFLECT ON ITS CONTENTS.

3. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ALSO APPLAUDED SPEECH AS "OPPORTUNE" AND "LUCID". PDC COMMUNIQUE DID NOT DWELL ON OVERSEAS ASPECTS OF SPEECH, BUT RATHER EMPHASIZED ANTI-EXTREMIST SEGMENTS.

4. ONLY TWO NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMMENTED ON SPEECH, SOCIALIST REPUBLICA AND CONSERVATIVE DIARIO POPULAR. FORMER CALLED SPEECH "SIGNIFICANT, CONTROVERSIAL AND DEBATABLE", AND PREDICTED PRESIDENT'S FUTURE INTERNAL POLITICAL MOVES WILL PARALLEL CLOSELY PARAMETERS OUTLINED IN SPEECH. REPUBLICA ALLEGES PRESIDENT HAS LEARNED VALUE OF PRAGMATISM FROM AMERICANS LIKE SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND SUGGESTS THAT IF ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND SPINOLA'S POLITICAL STRATEGY ONE SHOULD READ MILITARY MANUALS ON GUERRILLA WARFARE; SUCH MANUALS TEACH FLEXIBILITY, RAPID ADAPTATION TO CHANGING REALITIES, ATTACK WHERE AND WHEN ONE'S ENEMIES LEAST EXPECT IT, VALUE OF TACTICAL RETREATS WHEN NEED BE, AND A NON-LINEAR PATH TOWARD ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE.

5. DIARIO POPULAR EDITORIAL APPROVES SPEECH AND USES FOLLOWING ADJECTIVES: "NOTABLE, COURAGEOUS, ENERGETIC", AND SAYS SPINOLA DEMONSTRATES A PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE OF PORTUGUESE REALITY. EDITORIAL ATTACKED FAR LEFT AND RIGHT, AND MADE ASSERTION THAT PORTUGAL BELONGS TO WESTERN DEMOCRATIC WORLD.

6. SEPT 14 EDITION OF EXPRESSO DEVOTED HALF PAGE TO ANALYSIS OF SPEECH. GENERAL CONCLUSION SAME AS THAT IN REFTEL. EXPRESSO NOTES IN ADDITION THAT SPINOLA APPLIED LABEL "FASCIST" FOR FIRST TIME TO OLD REGIME, AND THAT HE LAID TO REST HOPES OF THOSE ON FAR RIGHT WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FELT HE MIGHT SOMEDAY SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE. PAPER ASSERTS THAT EVEN MODERATE RIGHT (READ CDS) DISAPPOINTED BY SPEECH BECAUSE OF ITS PRAISE OF NON-TOTALITARIAN SOCIALISM. EXPRESSO CONCLUDES THAT SPINOLA MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT MOMENT HAS ARRIVED FOR HIM TO BECOME A "POLITICAL LEADER" OF CENTER LEFT (READ PPD). JOURNAL SAYS CONTENT OF SPEECH CAUGHT MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS BY SURPRISE. ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT OF MAJOR PARTIES

ONLY PPD HAS COMMENTED ON SPEECH, NOTING THAT POINTS
DEFENDED IN PPD PROGRAM ARE ANALAGOUS TO THOSE SUPPORTED
BY PRESIDENT IN SPEECH.

7. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH DOES APPEAR TO HAVE
CAUGHT MOST POLITICAL PARTIES BY SURPRISE. FEW EXPECTED
A MAJOR ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL SITUATION IN A SPEECH
OSTENSIBLY DEVOTED TO GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE.
AN AIDE TO MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MAGALHAES MOTA TOLD
EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT ON CONCLUSION OF SPEECH ALVARO
CUNHAL AND PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES HURRIED OUT
OF CABINET MEETING, PRESUMABLY TO CONSULT WITH RESPECTIVE
FORCES ABOUT SPEECH. PPD LEADERS QUICKLY MET AND
DRAFTED ABOVE-MENTIONED COMMUNIQUE OF SUPPORT FOR SPEECH.
WE UNDERSTAND PPD OVERJOYED AT WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS
CLEAR SIGNAL FROM PRESIDENT THAT HE SUPPOTS THEIR
BASIC PROGRAM OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM WITH ROOM FOR
PRIVATE INITIATIVE.

8. ALTHOUGH THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS NOT COMMENTED
PUBLICLY ON SPEECH, MARIO SOARES TOLD DCM SEPT 13
THAT SOCIALISTS HAPPY AT APPARENT SPINOLA ACCEPTANCE
OF LEGITIMATE PLACE FOR NON-TOTALITARIAN SOCIALISM
IN MODERN SOCIETY.

9. WHETHER OF NOT SPINOLA IN FACT MEANT HIS SPEECH
AS SUPPORTIVE OF PPD IS NOT CLEAR. IN PAST MANY
OBSERVERS BELIEVED SPINOLA WAS CLOSER IDEOLOGICALLY
TO A PARTY LIKE THE MODERATE CENTRIST CDS THAN TO CENTER-
LEFT PPD. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND SOME OF SPINOLA'S
CLOSEST ADVISORS LIKE UN AMBASSADOR VEIGA SIMAO HAVE
DECIDED NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH CDS. OTHER KEY UNDECIDEDS
LIKE JOAO SALGUEIRO (A SPINOLA FRIEND) AND ROGERIO
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MARTINS HAVE RECENTLY JOINED THE PPD. WHETHER THESE
SHIFTS IN ALLEGIANCE OF SPINOLA FRIENDS AND ADVISORS
ARE INDICATIVE OF HIS THINKING REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
SCOTT

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